

P16738US00.a1e

2003-06-13

5

Abstract

A semi-submersible offshore platform (1) comprising:

- a substantially ring-shaped lower pontoon (2);
- 10 - at least three columns (4) extending upwardly from said lower pontoon (2), and
- an upper beam structure (5) connecting upper portions (6) of the columns (4) with each other.

According to the invention, said upper beam structure (5) forms a system of lateral beams (7), arranged in such a way as to allow one or more operation modules (8) to

15 be placed upon or adjacent to the columns (4) next to the lateral beams (7), either directly on the columns (4), on brackets (10) connected to the columns (4) or on a deck (9) arranged between upper ends (6) of the columns (4) and said operation modules (8), the lateral beams (7) protruding vertically upwards above a bottom plane (11) of the operation modules, said operation modules (8) containing, for

20 example, hydrocarbon processing equipment and/or accommodation quarters.

(fig. 1)